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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

National Intelligence Officers

25 July 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH : Deputy Director for National Foreign Assessment
National Intelligence Officer for Warning

FROM :
National Intelligence Officer for East Asia

SUBJECT : Warning Assessment: East Asia

The following items were discussed by the Community Representatives at the 23 July Warning Meeting.

2. South Korea: Public reaction to General Chon's "purification campaign," during which scores of public officials have been dismissed, has been relatively mild. However, Chon must soon deal with the Kim Dae Jung trial and the reopening of universities, which will offer important tests of his public acceptance. Analysts also called attention to the military's growing disillusionment with President Choi as a workable partner in fashioning a new constitution and government.

3. North Korea: On the military side, activity in the area of the DMZ remained at normal levels over the past 80 days. Politically, analysts were hesitant to make preliminary judgments on possible North Korean policy shifts based on only sketchy reports of Congressman Solarz's visit to Pyongyang. Expressions of unhappiness about the visit by the South Koreans continue to mount.

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4. Indochina: Analysts described a continuing series of incursions into Thai territory by SRV forces directed at DK resupply points. While these penetrations have been relatively shallow, the attacks have been much larger than the one several weeks ago at Ban Mak Mun. Analysts believe the Thai have avoided giving publicity to the attacks because they are concerned that the extent of their support for the DK will become public. []

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5. Analysts also indicated that DK forces have moved deeper into Kampuchea from base areas close to the Thai border and, as reflected in PAVN communications, have begun to raise PAVN concerns. Heightened Chinese military activity along the Sino-Vietnamese border was noted, along with more concrete expressions of Chinese support for Thailand in the event of a major PAVN attack. []

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6. Indonesia: There was agreement that relations between Indonesia and the US have taken a turn for the worse. The Indonesians have grown increasingly irritated with a series of policies which have resulted from among other things a cutback of PL480 aid, cuts and slow delivery of FMS, and a decision not to provide prior notification of passage of US vessels through such Indonesian-claimed waters as the Straits of Lombok. The impasse has not yet reached the critical stage, but there was concern that the Indonesians may interpret these policies as growing US indifference to East Asia and a signal that they should adjust their posture toward the Soviets. []

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7. China: The pattern of political maneuverings prior to high-level meetings later this year which was commented on last month has continued. Analysts also commented on evidence of differences among Chinese leaders who, while firmly committed to modernization, have conflicting views on how to attain this goal -- centralized control of the economy along Soviet lines vs. decentralization combined with enhanced material incentives and elements of a market economy. Although analysts believed that those favoring the latter course were presently in the ascendency, they looked to the upcoming high-level meetings to provide a fuller picture. []

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